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FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

PRE-MEMPHIS 2003 NEWSLETTER

MEMPHIS IS COMING!

Well, in the very near future, it will be time for the International Paper Money Show in Memphis Tennessee. It will be from June 12-15 and will be at the Cook County Convention Center in Memphis. As you all know, this is the Mecca of paper money shows and if you have not had a chance to attend one, try to get down for at least one day. There will be a HUGE bourse with paper money galore, the most incredible collection of paper money exhibits you have ever seen, educational presentations and hobby organization meetings. This is a very, very special time for our hobby. Not only can you find almost anything you want for your collection, the camaraderie, networking with dealers and other collectors and the general overall meeting of people with like interests, renewing old friendships and making new ones, etc. is well worth the trip.

MEETING

We will be having their annual meeting at the show on Saturday. Tom is shooting for our normal time of 2P, but you will have to look at the schedule of events to make sure this is when it happens. After a short business meeting, we will be having a presentation by Rick Melamed on "*Inverted Plate Numbers on Fractional Currency.*" One item we will be discussing at the meeting is the future of this newsletter. Now that we are essentially limited to original articles, I need direction from you, the membership, on how to best meet your needs. Do you want to continue as is with four a year with updates, etc and articles as we are able, or do you want to change it in some other fashion to meet your needs. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and so YOUR input in to how to optimize it is needed!

RAFFLE

A tradition at our annual meeting is our member raffle. Last year a number of you and some of our dealer members said if we had told them earlier, they would have donated items. So, let this be your official notice. We will be having a raffle at the meeting and need a few good items (no 4th and 5th regular issue notes, unless they are in a bound pack). We need 4-5 really good items that would be of interest to our members. We use the money we make off the raffle to help with our expenses. Of note—I hope to have a couple of "special" prizes for the raffle so plan on attending and if we can get three or four more items, it would be greatly appreciated.

EXHIBITS

As always, I am quite sure that the fractional exhibits will be their usual class of the field. It is not too late (hopefully) to do an exhibit. Martin Delger is the exhibit chair and while I don't have the actual entry deadline, it is usually around May 15, so you need to read this and if you have not already done so, contact Martin NOW to see if you can still place an exhibit. As always, I am being presumptuous when I say another good thing about exhibiting is that there are really good plaques for all exhibitors that Martin makes up and probably a few special ones for fractional currency winners. So, how about it??? If you have exhibited before, do another this year; if you have never done one—start with this year!

MEMBERSHIP

We are still adding members and the special edition of "Paper Money" to brought in many new ones. We just added our 463rd member and we currently have 201 active members. Much of the credit for this phenomenal growth goes to you, our members for taking our club to your local shows, clubs and acquaintances.

DUES are DUE!

Speaking of membership, dues for 2003 are now due. If you joined the FCCB before July 1, 2002, you owe dues for 2003. As a reminder, dues are \$15/year. Dr. Lee will be giving me a list of delinquents at Memphis and if your name is on that list, instead of the July, post-Memphis newsletter, you will be getting a letter from me asking if you still want to be a part of the club.

MATERIAL NEEDED

As I whined about above and in past newsletters, since I am no longer able to include articles I find in the numismatic press in the newsletter as I have done in the past due to potential copyright problems I need stuff from you!. Please send me articles, stories, show reports, new finds, observations, etc. Without your input, this newsletter will solely be a list of members!

I need more stuff—especially show reports and how fractional was at them!!

JOIN THE SPMC

If you are not a member of the Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC), I urge you join. There is an application to the group included. The SPMC is a great organization for paper money collectors and has many benefits besides its' award winning journal, "Paper Money." If you are not a member and join today! You won't regret it!!!

DR. DOUGLAS BALL

I am sure many of you have heard that Civil War researcher, author and dealer Dr. Douglas Ball of New York City recently passed away. Most of you probably knew him as a fixture at Memphis working with R. M. Smythe. He was a very knowledgeable and jovial and a real joy to be around. All in the numismatic hobby will sorely miss him.

PERSONAL NOTE—ROB KRAVITZ—NEW STEAK *and* SHAKE—LESS THAN FIVE MILES FROM MY HOUSE—VISIT WEEKLY—JEALOUS??? WILL SHIP CARE PACKAGES—ONE FOR ONE—ONE CARE PKG FOR ONE 1351-4.

A POSTAGE CURRENCY WHODUNIT...

1st ISSUE POSTAGE CURRENCY FLOODS COMMERCE !!!

Where?? SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

When?? 1874 - TWELVE YEARS AFTER ORIGINAL ISSUE

Discovered and submitted by Tom O'Mara

I came across this 19th century newspaper with an article about an unexplained resurgence of Postage Currency being circulated 12 years after it had been issued, and 11 years after its manufacture was halted for the release of the 2nd Issue Fractional Currency. Additionally, it began to show up all the way out West in San Diego, California. The amount showing up at banks for redemption along with the genuine, new condition the notes were in gave rise to fear that someone had possibly stolen the original plates. Remember, the 1st issue was made by the American Bank Note Co (ABNCo) and the National Bank Note Co, and some of the plates for work they did for state banks, merchant scrip, and possibly U.S. notes had from time to time disappeared and fallen into the hands of disreputable moneyers who produced unauthorized notes and illegally placed them into circulation. In this case in San Diego, the Secret Service, the Treasury Department and even the U.S. Congress were all alarmed and investigating this unusual activity. A full-fledged investigation led authorities to a wealthy, eccentric old man who had loaded up on some new Postage Currency notes back in 1862-1863 and finally began to spend them. I wonder if there could be any other safes are out there with such holdings?

The San Diego Union.

SAN DIEGO, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1874.

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

A Rich Old Gentleman Frightens the Treasury Department.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency have been for some time secretly investigating the source from which the large amount of fractional currency, which was first issued and known as "postal currency," has been put in circulation. The committee were apprised very early in the session, through the Treasury officials, that a large amount of this currency of the first issue, unquestionably genuine and quite fresh and new, was in circulation, and was being constantly presented for redemption. The Secret Service Department of the Government has been at work on the case for a long time in connection with the committee, and it has now been fully established that the entire amount had been put in circulation by a very eccentric and wealthy old gentleman, who, when this first issue of the fractional currency was made, deposited a large quantity of it in his safe, and never had paid it out until very recently. The Secretary at first thought of issuing a circular warning the public against taking it. It was afterward thought the original plates had been stolen.

This was recently found (on Ebay—I think) and submitted to me by one of our members. It is two different documents relating to legal actions taken against two different individuals accused of stealing property, cash—some of it fractional currency.

County of Lycoming }
City of Williamsport } 85.
}

Personally appeared before me the
subscriber Recorder of the City of Williamsport
James Driscoll, who being sworn according
to law doth depose and say that he has
reason to believe and verily does believe
that in said County on the 13th day of
April 1875 one John Birmingham
did feloniously take steal and carry
away from the person of defendant
fifty seven dollars and twenty cents in money
consisting ~~bills of the denomination of~~
five & ten dollar bills in number and
national currency and also some
fractional currency of the property
of defendant. And further saith
not.

Swear and subscribe } James X Driscoll
before me Apl 15 1875 } Drunk

J L Murchison
Recorder of the City of Williamsport

Commonwealth No. 997,
John Birmingham.

Warrant issued Apr. 15, 1875,
Recd. \$2.70
Fifpn .62
Jndiscoll .31
John Sharr .31
\$3.94
3
Patrick Flynn P. on oath of James
Discoll, Charging Deft. with having
in Lycoming County on the 13th day of
April 1875, feloniously taken stolen &
carried away, from the person of deponent
\$57, or thereabouts in money consisting
of five & ten dollar bills in "Greenbacks"
National currency and some fractional
currency of the property of deponent.
Same day Deft. brought up.
James Discoll sv. John Sharr sv.
After hearing bail in \$500. required for Deft.
Appearance at Court.

Exit Commitment to Patrick Flynn Policeman
James Discoll held in \$100. to appear & pay
County of Lycoming
City of Williamsport 88.

I certify that the above is a correct transcript
of the proceedings had before me in this case
and of record on my docket.

Witness my hand & official seal
at Williamsport the 14th day of May A.D. 1875,

J.S. Mendenhall
Recorder of the City of Williamsport.

In the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions of
the Peace for the County of Lycoming.

November sessions, 187

LYCOMING COUNTY, ss:

The Grand Inquest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, inquiring for the County of Lycoming, upon their respective oaths and affirmations, do present, That

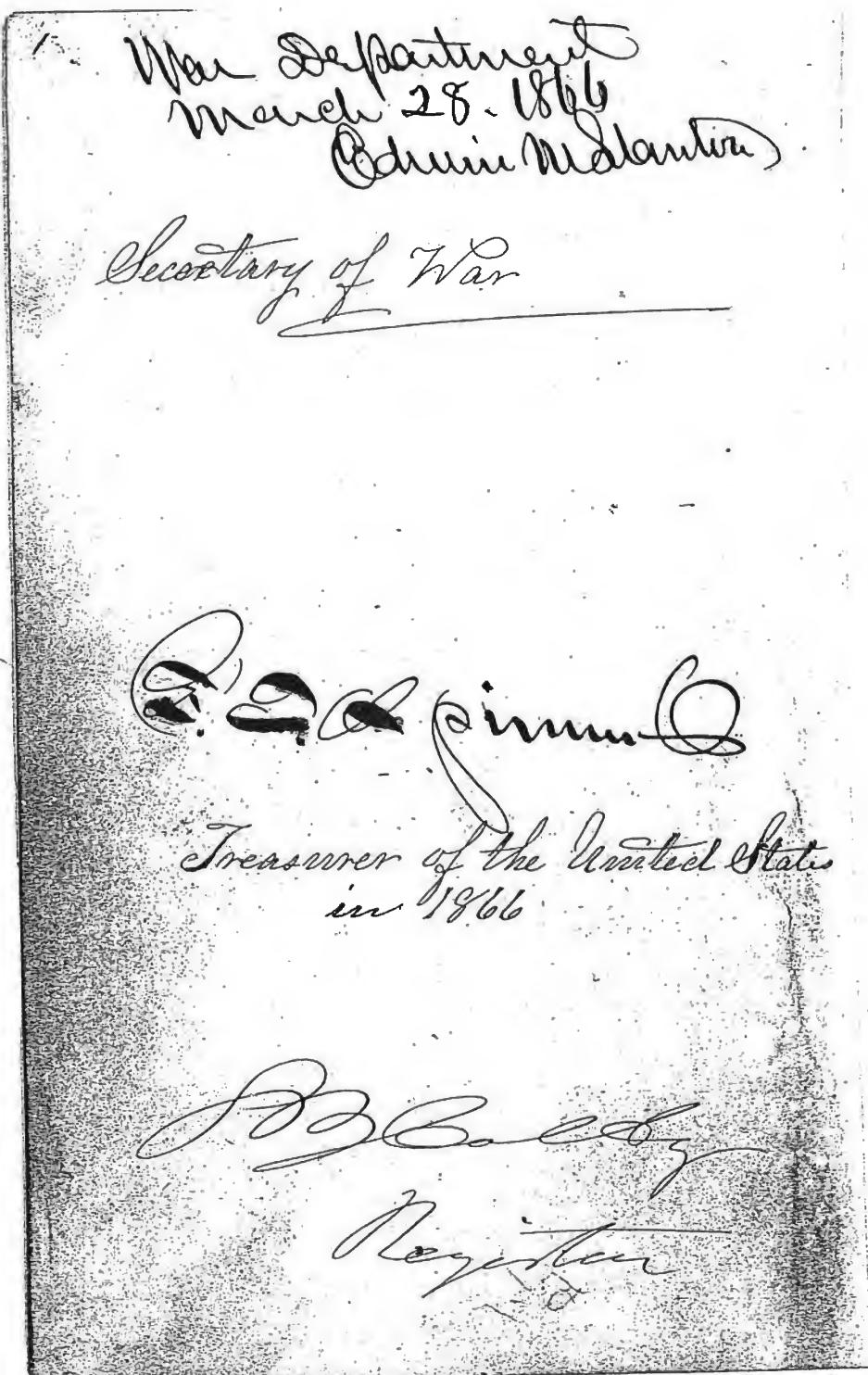
Charles Hoover

late of the said County, Pigman on the Ninth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy four at the County aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, with force and arms, &c. feloniously did break and

enter into a saloon used and occupied by one G. Stotz and one fifty-Cent note of the fractional currency of the United States Commonly called fractional currency of the denomination of fifty Cents and of the value of fifty Cents two twenty five Cents notes of the currency of the United States Commonly called fractional currency of the value of twenty five Cents each and of the currency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania two Cent notes of the fractional currency of the Commonwealth called fractional currency of the denomination of ten Cents each and of the value of ten Cents each, five five Cent pieces of the coin of the United States commonly called Nickle, of the denomination of five Cents each and of the value of five cents each there being of the goods Chattels Money or G. Stotz feloniously did steal take and carry away Contrary to the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Myself
District Attorney

This was recently found and submitted to me by one of our members. It appears to be potentially a page from an autograph book with Stanton, Spinner and Colby's signatures on it. Of interest—I have one almost like it with Stanton and two other lesser War department officials signatures.



A potential new note—a member recently found this note and is in the process of validating it. He states it looks to be from a Heath plate. It also has a tiny loop in the “p” of “Spinner” and no “r” loop at the right. It also appears to be a plate proof on blotter-like paper.

More on this note hopefully forthcoming.
(picture is enlarged).

